

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-31, 33 and 34 are pending in the application, with 1, 8, 20, and 27 being the independent claims. Claim 32 is sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

The preambles of claims 1 and 8 are amended to remove references to integrated circuit chips. Claim 20 is amended to correct a typographical error. Claim 27 is amended to correct provide proper antecedent basis. Support for the amendment to claim 27 is found at, for example, FIG. 30, step 3008. New claims 33 and 34 are added to recite integrated circuit chips. Support for new claims 33 and 34 are found in, for example, the preambles of claims 1 and 8, as originally filed. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding objections and rejections.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Kline et al. (US 5,768,268). Claim 32 has been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. The rejection is thus believed to be rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

In paragraph 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner provisionally rejected claims 8-19 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 2-11 of co-pending U.S. Application No. 09/844,432.

Applicants hereby submit a terminal disclaimer with respect to co-pending U.S. Application No. 09/844,432. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding objections and rejections.

Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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